

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01842 072253Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /069 W

-----080422Z 063001 /22

R 070839Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2493

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1842

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, MPOL, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF ARMY SECRETARY ALEXANDER AND ACTING
ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF KERWIN TESTIMONY BEFORE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE

1. MARCH 6 EDITIONS OF BOTMRMAJOR KOREAN ENGLISH
NEWSPAPERS GAVE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE COVERAGE TO TESTIMONY
OF ARMY SECRETARY, CLIFFORD ALEXANDER, AND ACTING ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF, GEN. HALTER T. KERWIN, BEFORE HOUSE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE REGARDING NEED FOR CONTINUED US
TROOP PRESENCE IN KOREA.

2. BOTH KOREA TIMES AND KOREA HERALD CARRIED STORIES
COMPILED FROM WIRE SERVICES REPORTING THAT BOTH
ALEXANDER AND KERWIN WARNED ANY PRECIPITOUS CHANGE IN
THE PRECARIOUSLY BALANCED FORCES IN KOREA, PARTICULARLY
WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE, WOULD HAVE
AN UNSETTLING AND POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING EFFECT.
ARTICLES NOTE ALEXANDER AND KERWIN TESTIMONY APPEARS
TO BE CLEAR INDICATION OF THE U.S. ARMY'S OBJECTION TO
A PULLOUT OF THE SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION. IN RESPONSE
TO SUBSEQUENT QUESTION, ALEXANDER REPORTED TO HAVE
STATED THAT THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM KOREA
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01842 072253Z

HAD NOT BEEN MADE AND THAT IT WAS A POLITICAL MATTER
TO BE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AFTER CONSULTATIONS
WITH BOTH JAPAN AND KOREA. REMAINDER OF ARTICLES CITED
ROLE OF U.S. TROOPS TOWARDS MAINTENANCE OF REGIONAL
SECURITY AND UNPREDICTABLE MILITARISTIC NATURE OF NORTH
KOREAN REGIME.

3. KOREA VERNACULAR PAPERS HAVE ALSO GIVEN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO TESTIMONY OF ALEXANDER AND KERWIN. HAN'GUK ILBO AND TONGA ILBO BOTH RAN DISPATCHES FROM THEIR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS ON MARCH 5, SUBSTANTIALLY AS ABOVE.

4. IN ADDITION, HAN'GUK ILBO RAN STORY ON NDP HEAD YI CH'OL-SUNG'S MEETING IN HONOLULU WITH ASSISTANT CINCPAC LEROY J. MENOR (PHONETIC), QUOTING LATTER AS SAYING "THERE HAS BEEN NO DETAILED DECISION FOR REDUCTION OF USF/K. IF, IN FUTURE, US GROUND FORCES ARE REDUCED, AIR AND NAVAL FORCES WILL NOT BE."

5. SEVERAL SATURDAY PAPERS ALSO PUBLISHED TONGYANG ITEM FROM WASHINGTON NOTING THAT, DESPITE PLANS FOR

WITHDRAWAL OF USF/K, BUDGET REQUEST FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN FISCAL YEAR (FY) 1978 (AT \$27.5 MILLION) IS TWICE LEVEL OF FY 1977. ARTICLE CITES TESTIMONY MARCH 4 BY WILLIAM WRAY, US ARMY ASSISTANT CHIEF OF ENGINEERING.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE PERTINENT PORTIONS OF ALEXANDER/KERWIN TESTIMONY VIA WIRELESS FILE.

STERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770078-0962
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770386/aaaacxoe.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 414b81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3186181
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS OF ARMY SECRETARY ALEXANDER AND ACTING ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF KERWIN TESTIMONY BEFORE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, MPOL, KS, US, (ALEXANDER, CLIFFORD), (KERWIN, HALTER T)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/414b81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009